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Lab waste shipped to pilot plant

NEWSLINE STAFF REPORT

The Laboratory and Department of Energy recently completed shipment of more than 600 drums of legacy waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), located outside Carlsbad, N.M., about 256 miles southeast of Albuquerque.

WIPP is the world's first underground repository licensed to safely and permanently dispose of transuranic (TRU) waste left from nuclear weapons research. LLNL had accumulated "legacy" TRU waste from weapons program activities conducted at the plutonium facility and the heavy element facility. The waste was generated as a result of basic research, processing of TRU materials and decommissioning activities, and consisted mostly of various types of laboratory trash such as contaminated plastic, personal protective equipment and small hand tools.

Shipments of TRU waste began in October 2004, following an almost 10-month effort to set up mobile characterization equipment, prepare an operational readiness review, and characterize the containers of waste

See **TRU**, page 7



EPD

More than 600 drums of waste were packed up at the Lab and shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

DOE/NNSA budget request shows continued support for national security programs

The FY 2006 budget request rolled out by the Department of Energy (DOE) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) earlier this week reflects growth of national security programs, such as defense nuclear nonproliferation and sustained support for weapons activities, including stockpile stewardship.

"Rollout of the FY 2006 budget request by Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman signals the start of the budget process, which culminates with passage of a budget by Congress this summer," said Linda Rakow, LLNL acting CFO. "This is just the beginning of the

See **BUDGET**, page 7

Classification and pay structure review for 300 series begins

A review of the classification and pay structure for the 300 Series is under way. This project is a part of the Integrated Performance and Pay Program (IPPP) that includes an assessment of all Laboratory pay structures to ensure they are competitive with the market and reflect best practices.

The current 300 Series pay program was implemented approximately 25 years ago; this is the first thorough review of the program since 1980. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- Update the job classification descriptions, as appropriate.
- Ensure the alignment of the pay structure

See **300 SERIES**, page 3

Federal report concludes no public health hazard from activities at Site 300

Environmental Protection Department head Ellen Raber recently announced that the Centers for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has completed its Public Health Assessment of Site 300, delivering a finding of "no public health hazard."

According to ATSDR, this means "...people are not, have not, and are not expected to be exposed to hazardous substances associated with Site 300." This assessment concludes the overall ATSDR process at the Lab unless new information arises on main site or Site 300 contaminants.

The report states: "There are no completed past exposure pathways for contaminated groundwater. No contamination from Site 300 has ever been detected in offsite water supply wells."

ATSDR will hold a public meeting on the find-

See **ATSDR**, page 8

DOE to add medical screening centers

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman announced Wednesday that the Bush administration will add nine additional medical screening centers as part of the department's Former Worker Medical Screening Program, at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Under this expansion, the Former Worker Medical Screening Program will offer all former Energy Department employees, contractors and subcontractors free medical examinations to determine if possible exposure to harmful substances during their employment resulted in subsequent illness.

"This is a clear case where improving the effi-

ciency and effectiveness of a meaningful government program has a direct impact on people's lives. These Americans' efforts helped to cement not only our freedom, but America's victory in the Cold War and the security we know today. Providing this screening is the first step in getting these former workers the medical care they so rightly deserve," Bodman said.

The fiscal year 2005 Budget (enacted) provided \$12.5 million for the operation of 10 screening centers around the country. Under the budget request presented by President Bush to Congress, funding for the Former Worker Program would remain at \$12.5

See **SCREENING**, page 8



Brighter Holiday's shining light

— Page 3



Security changes coming

— Page 4



In search of native grasslands

— Page 8



LAB COMMUNITY NEWS

Weekly Calendar

Technical Meeting Calendar, page 4

Wednesday
16

LLNL's Food Services Group and Eurest Dining Services invite employees to celebrate the first anniversary of the **opening of the Lab's Central Café** today, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come and join a wide array of vendors who will be in attendance with tasty treats, giveaways, and other surprises. The new café has been a key element in meeting one of the recommendations from the Survey Action Team to improve on-site services for Lab employees and offers higher quality of food service options, increased circulation to handle the demand of more than 800 meals a day, and has played host to numerous retirement events, reception dinners, holiday functions, and the benefit fair.

...

The **Living Well** health and fitness workshop series kicks off today, from noon to 1 p.m. with "Exercise: Getting Started, Staying Motivated," by Tami Anastasia, a health and fitness instructor. The talk will be held in the Bldg. 361 auditorium. Later workshops in the series include a guide to healthy eating and relaxation techniques for wellness and stress reduction. The workshops are sponsored by the Worklife Programs Office, Health Services Department, Employee Assistance Program/CONCERN and LLESA. The programs are open to employees and no registration is required. For more information, call 2-9543.

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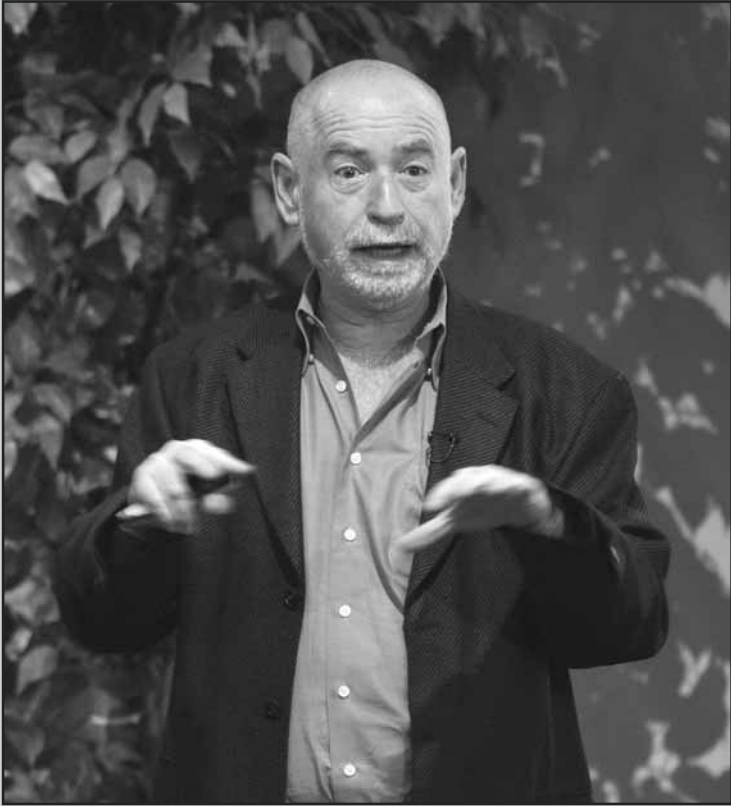
A **Fidelity** retirement counselor will be available today and Feb. 22, to assist with assessing the current state of retirement accounts, learning how to diversify, planning asset allocation and identifying income strategies. Fidelity Investments Mutual Funds are available to UC's workplace retirement plan participants in addition to the UC-managed investments pools. If you would like to set up a consultation with a Fidelity representative, call 800-642-7131. When calling, be sure to specify that you are an LLNL employee.

Up
&
Coming

B Division and LLLWA's **spring book sale** will return on March 14-18, at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in Bldg. 132, room 1200 (Q or L-cleared access only). Used books, videos, CDs, DVDs, puzzles and books-on-tape are needed. All proceeds are used to buy Christmas gifts for needy children in Livermore, Oakland, Concord and San Joaquin County, as well as fund LLLWA scholarships. Collection boxes are available in Bldg. 113 north entrance; Bldg. 132 lobby; Bldg. 253, room 1531; Bldg. 543 library; Bldg. 551 and Bldg. 663 (Health Services). You can also contact Lynn Groves, 2-1684, or Edith Greene, 3-0252, with questions regarding donations.

Back to the future

Futurist Peter Schwartz presented "Preparing for Business in an Uncertain World" in a Leadership Lecture series talk Tuesday morning in the Bldg. 123 auditorium. Following the lecture Schwartz conducted an executive seminar for the Laboratory's Senior Management Council. He is known for helping organization leaders imagine and prepare for often surprising and uncertain futures.



JACQUELINE MCBRIDE/NEWSLINE

Organization makes filing less taxing

By Larry Medina

RECORDS AND ARCHIVES GROUP

Well, it's that time again, the beginning of the year and the tax filing deadline is rapidly approaching; are your records in order? Every year we tell ourselves we'll do better next year in organizing the critical documents required for preparing our tax returns, but most of us soon discover that another year has passed and our records are still not organized.

While it's probably too late to do much about your 2004 tax documents, now is the perfect time to get prepared to organize your 2005 tax records and other important papers you may have around the home. The key is to manage your documents as you receive them rather than waiting until the end of the year. Here are a few helpful hints:



Start simple

Begin with selecting a location you'll keep the documents in. Some ideas you might consider include a cardboard file box, a designated drawer in a file cabinet, or something as simple as a shoebox. The key is deciding on a system and sticking with it through the year.

Your records can be organized chronologically (by month), by expense category (health costs, donations, etc.), or any other format that suits your needs. The object is to select a method that facilitates easy access to the information.

Consistency

One of the most important things is to establish a system and stick with it. Functional, uncomplicated systems involve less of a time commitment than a detailed approach. For example, using colored folders to separate categories or months of the year can make filing easier.

It's a good idea to periodically review the contents of your system, preferably on a quarterly basis. You can weed out things that aren't needed or re-file

items that have been filed incorrectly. Consider developing a running calculation of your year-to-date expenses and update this every time you perform your review.

Vital records

You may want to establish a system for your personal vital records and make your family aware of where these are stored. Items to consider include insurance policies, auto registrations, bank account and credit card numbers, birth certificates, warranties and educational papers, mortgage documents, etc.

Many people use a fire-resistant safe to store these critical documents. Keep in mind these devices are fire resistant only, not fireproof. Check the fire rating on the box before purchasing to ensure it is sufficient for the contents you plan on storing. Be aware that electronic media (CDs, floppies, ZIP disks) require a higher degree of protection than most of these type of containers can provide.

Newsline

Newsline is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), for Laboratory employees and retirees.

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AROUND THE LAB



For Brighter Holidays founder Betty Klino, giving is a gift

By Linda Luchetti

NEWSLINE STAFF

Lab retiree Betty Klino has helped brighten up the holidays of many needy families since 1989. Now, Klino, a woman whose name is synonymous with the “Brighter Holidays” program, is moving out of the area. These are bittersweet times for her as she reminisces about the program’s progression and the many lives that have been touched.

While working in Plant Engineering 16 years ago, Klino knew of a family who needed help during the holidays. A friend also knew of a family needing assistance. Together, Klino and friend joined forces, put the word out to co-workers for donations, and started collecting toys, clothes and basic necessities for both families.

Fast forward to present day and one can appreciate the growth of that first toy and clothing drive, as well as the amount of skillful coordination and effort required. Last December, with the help of volunteers, contributions made by Lab employees, and the assistance of the Lab’s “Cycletrons” in repairing donated bicycles, “Brighter Holidays” successfully aided 147 families living in nine counties. Since its inception, Klino reports that “Brighter Holidays” has helped 1,137 families.

“Brighter Holidays” has evolved through the years. In the early days, Klino sought names of needy families from St. Michaels’s Catholic Church in Livermore. Soon the word spread throughout Livermore, Pleasanton and beyond. Later she dealt directly with organizations like Tri-Valley Haven and



JACQUELINE MCBRIDE/NEWSLINE

Retiree Betty Klino with beneficiaries of Brighter Holidays.

have inquired about joining the program or even seeking advice in setting up a program.

Where does she get her energy and passion to help others? “I can relate,” Klino said. “I was a child of immigrant parents and grew up on a farm. We didn’t have much. I remember friends and family bringing presents and food at Christmas.”

“And, I can’t say no,” she adds, stating that her commitment to help others is almost like an addiction. “Once you start, you can’t stop.” This was evident in 1996 when, at the time of her retirement, she continued to administer “Brighter Holidays” from home.

Members of families that were once helped by “Brighter Holidays” but are back on their feet have contacted Klino asking, “What can I do to repay the program?”

“I just tell them to do something for someone less fortunate,” Klino said.

Since Klino is planning to relocate — either to Southern California or Hawaii — it is obvious that the time has come to relinquish her leadership role.

Sherry Pratt of the Lab’s Finance Department will take the reins. Pratt said that she knew about the program and its success. “When I heard Betty would be leaving and Brighter Holidays could end, I just couldn’t let it die, so I stepped up.”

“The feeling that you get when you give to others is better than anything you can describe,” Klino tells others.

She may be departing, but it’s clear that a part of Betty Klino will live in the “Brighter Holidays” program.

For more information about the “Brighter Holidays” program, contact Sherry Pratt at 3-8549.

CommunityCHAMPIONS

Shepherd’s Gate. After September 11, many agencies were finding their food supplies depleted. Klino, who believes in doing whatever is needed, concentrated on conducting food drives to replenish resources.

Klino credits the many volunteers who have helped “Brighter Holidays” garner the positive reputation it enjoys even beyond the Lab’s gates. Private companies

300 SERIES

Continued from page 1

with the appropriate market.

- Review job classification for compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

A 10-member team of directorate representatives has been appointed to assist the Compensation Division in conducting the review. Those serving on the team are: Barbara Atkinson, Ted Michels and Ron Schmucker, all of Computation; Bill Graham, Mechanical Engineering; Bill Niven, Electronics Engineering; Lori Souza, Chemistry and Materials Science; Anita Gursahani, Eric Steele and Richard

Watts, Lab Services (AIS); and Meredith Erickson, Lab Services (UTEL).

This team is providing feedback to the Compensation Division on project steps such as application of the federal government’s new FLSA requirements, reviewing salary surveys to ensure the appropriate market comparisons, and reviewing classifications to ensure they properly describe work currently performed at the Laboratory. The Compensation Department and the team expect to complete the review in the spring.

Early work done by the team and Compensation Division staff suggests that modest

rather than significant change will result from this review. Employees in the 300 series will have an opportunity to comment on any proposed changes for the 300 Series classification and pay structure prior to finalization in spring.

The Integrated Performance and Pay Program resulted from recommendations of the employee teams that analyzed the 2001 “Assessing the Workplace” employee survey. The Administrative and Specialist job classification, or 100 Series, was the first to undergo review starting in 2003. New Administrative and Specialist (A&S) salary structures and job classifications went into effect in May 2004.

Year of the rooster celebrated

Joel Wong of the Chinese American Networking Group presents Tomas Diaz de la Rubia, associate director for Chemistry and Materials Science, a picture of a rooster. Diaz de la Rubia was the feature speaker at the banquet celebrating Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rooster. In his remarks, Diaz de la Rubia emphasized the importance of the Laboratory’s commitment to diversity for continued success in the future.



BOB HIRSCHFELD/NEWSLINE



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Security procedures and gate access change Monday

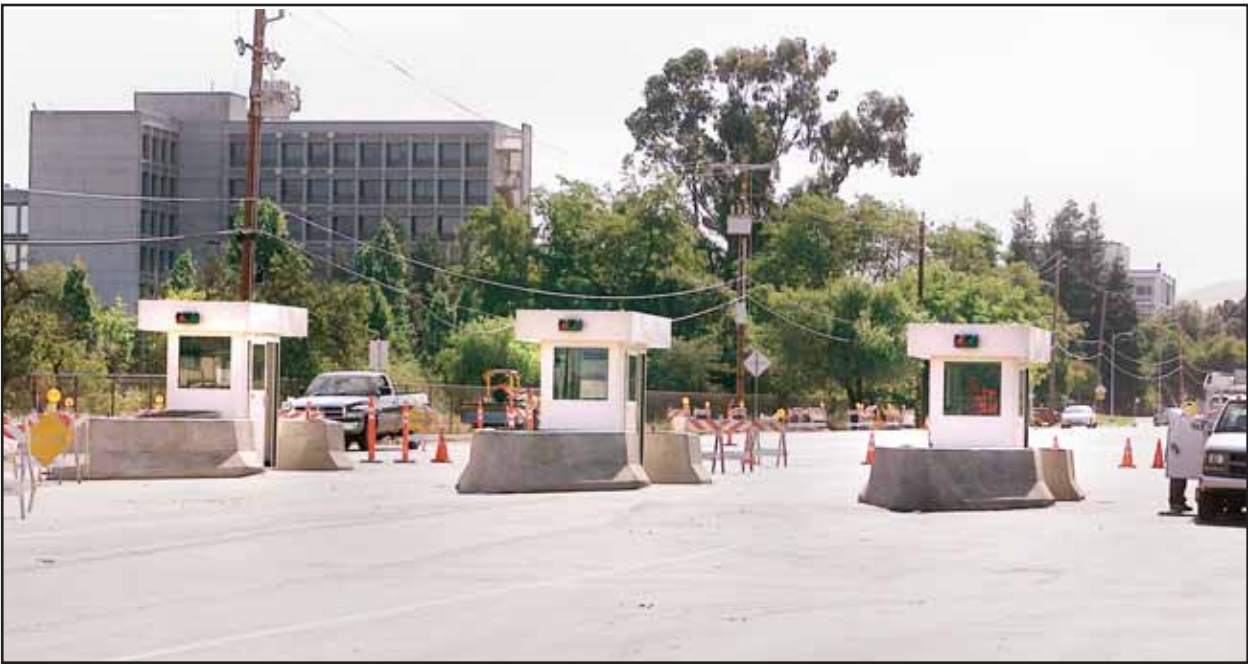
Beginning Monday, a series of security changes will be enforced at the Laboratory.

A larger number of vehicles entering the Laboratory will now be required to enter through the Delivery Vehicle Inspection Station (DVIS) along the East Avenue Security Corridor via Greenville Road. Cars and trucks such as motorhomes, vehicles towing a boat, trailer or another vehicle, and pick-up trucks with sleeper-type campers will be redirected to the DVIS express lane. The DVIS normally operates from 6:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. At all other times, requests for entry for these types of vehicles must be approved by the PFD Operations sergeant (2-7225) on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, all the same vehicles redirected to the DVIS, will not be permitted to park overnight in open-area parking lots at the West Gate Badge Office, Credit Union, UC Davis Campus, Discovery Center and South Mall.

All personally owned vehicles entering into limited areas also will be subject to visual inspection of all enclosures, including trunk, utility boxes, camper shells, areas beneath tonneau covers, as well as the interiors of vehicles with blacked-out or dark-tinted windows.

In addition to the changes in perimeter vehicle searches, there will be changes in the operating hours of the Lab's perimeter gates and the entry points into the limited areas to



New gate hours and vehicle security check procedures go into effect Monday, Feb. 14. The Mesquite Gate and limited area Post 3-C (3rd Street near Avenue B) are closed for construction and will remain closed indefinitely beginning Monday. All other perimeter gates and all vehicular entrances into the limited area will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.

standardize the hours of operations. The Mesquite Gate and limited area Post 3-C (3rd Street near Avenue B) are closed for construction and will remain closed indefinitely beginning Monday. All other perimeter gates and all vehicular entrances into the limited area will

be open from 6:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.

For a complete list of vehicles that will be redirected to the DVIS as well as standardized gate hours, see the Jan. 28 edition of *Newsline* at <http://www.llnl.gov/pao/employee/articles/2005/1-28-05-newsline.pdf>.

Technical Meeting Calendar

Friday 11

INSTITUTE FOR GEOPHYSICS & PLANETARY PHYSICS
"The Composition, Origin and Evolution of Dust in Circumstellar and Interstellar Environments," by AGGM Tielens. Noon, Bldg. 319, room 205. Property protection area. Foreign national temporary building access procedures apply. Contact: Wil van Breugel, 2-7195, or Lisa Lopez, 3-0250.

Monday 14

CHEMICAL BIOLOGY & NUCLEAR SCIENCE/ BIOSECURITY & NANOSCIENCES LABORATORY
"Monitoring Protein-Protein Interaction Surface Using Proton-Proton Dipolar Relaxation," by Alexander Shekhtman, Department of Chemistry, State University of New York, Albany. 2 p.m., Bldg. 151, room 1209, Stevenson Room. Foreign nationals may attend if approved plan is on file, which includes Bldg. 151. Contacts: Julio Camarero, 2-6807, or Ted Tarasow 3-7241.

Tuesday 15

LIVERMORE COMPUTING
Customers Monthly Meeting, 9:45 a.m., Bldg. 451, White Room (P-cleared). Contact: Teresa Delpha, 3-7329.

INSTITUTE FOR GEOPHYSICS & PLANETARY PHYSICS
"Feedback From Massive Stellar Clusters in Starbursts," by Andrea Gilbert, Max Planck Institute. 12:45 p.m., Bldg. 319, room 205. Property protection area. Foreign national temporary building access procedures apply. Contact: Wil van Breugel, 2-7195, or Lisa Lopez, 3-0250.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
Postdoctoral Poster Symposium, 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 543, lobby area. Contact: Camille Vandermeer, 3-2672.

WEDNESDAY 16

COMPUTATION/HIGH PERFORMANCE SYSTEMS DIVISION
"Web Services Security," by Mark O'Neill, CTO Vordel, 9:30 a.m., Trailer 3427, room 1220, Onyx Room. Property protection area. Foreign national temporary building access procedures apply. Contact: Richard Mark, 3-1940, or Arlene Manning, 2-2023.

INTEGRATED COMPUTING & COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
Macintosh Technical Seminar Series. "Apple Macworld Wrap-up," by Ron Ustach. 10:30 a.m., Bldg. 543 auditorium. Contact: Duane Straub, 2-9774.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
"Thermal Effectiveness of Nuclear Weapons Against CBW Agents Stored in Bunkers," by Lew Glenn, LLNL Earth Science Division. 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 543 auditorium. Refreshments will be served. Contact: Camille Vandermeer, 3-2672.

Thursday 17

MATERIALS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
"Materials and Structures for Anti-Terrorism Blast Protection," by G.B. Olson, Northwestern University, 9:00 a.m., Bldg. 155 auditorium. Property protection area. Foreign national temporary building access procedures apply. Contact: Wayne King, 3-6547, or Becky Browning, 2-5500.

BIOSCIENCES DIRECTORATE
"Community Proteomics Reveals Key Functions in a Natural Microbial Biofilm," by Michael Thelen. 10:30 a.m. Bldg. 361 auditorium, Darwin Room. Contact: Alice Yamada, 2-4723.

INERTIAL CONFINEMENT FUSION/ HIGH ENERGY DENSITY EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE
"Nonlinear Rayleigh-Taylor Instability Experiments on OMEGA," by Vladimir Smayluk, University of Rochester, Laboratory for Laser Energetics. 9:30 a.m. Bldg. 319, room 205. Contact: Bruce Remington, 3-2712, or Anika Rodda, 2-6377.

INSTITUTE FOR GEOPHYSICS & PLANETARY PHYSICS
"Obscured AGN in Spitzer's First Look Survey," by Mark Lacy, California Institute of Technology. Noon, Bldg. 319, room 205. Property protection area. Foreign national temporary building access procedures apply. Contact: Wil van Breugel, 2-7195, or Lisa Lopez, 3-0250.

The deadline for the next Technical Meeting Calendar is noon, Wednesday. Please submit your meetings via the new Technical Meeting Calendar form on the Web, located at <https://www-r.llnl.gov/tmc> For information on electronic mail or the newsgroup llnl.meeting, contact the registrar at registrar@llnl.gov.

CSI crime investigation up next for Saturday science

Ever wonder how crime scene investigators do their job? Where the tricks of their trade come from? Find out when Lab scientist Allen Christian and Tracy High School biology teacher Kirk Brown present “Inside Forensics: Behind CSI,” the second in the Lab’s popular “Science on Saturday” lecture series, Saturday (Feb. 12) at 9:30 a.m. at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.

During this lecture, audience members will learn how scientists work with law enforcement to develop new technologies that keep crime scene investigation on the cutting edge.

The series of free lectures and demonstrations are geared for students in middle through high school and will run through March 5. Each presentation in the series is a collaboration between a Lab scientist and a science teacher and is aligned with the California Science Standards.

There is no pre-registration, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating quickly filled at last week’s presentation so attendees are advised to come early.

Directions, maps, and a complete list of lectures are available at <http://education.llnl.gov/sos/>. “Science on Saturday,” is presented by LLNL’s Science and Technology Education Program, and Sigma Xi, Livermore chapter. For additional information contact Richard Farnsworth at 2-5059.



“SRO” for “SOS” — It was “standing room only” at this year’s first “Science on Saturday” lecture. Approximately 680 students and teachers attended “Juggling the Power of Light: How Lasers Work,” presented on Feb. 5 by Ed Moses, National Ignition Facility (NIF) project manager, and Los Gatos High School teacher Dan Burns. The lecture series runs through March 5.

Preview of coming attractions

Feb. 19: “Decode This: Decoding Genomes,” presented by Elbert Branscomb, LLNL scientist, and Frankie Tate, Granada High School teacher. Explore what genome sequences are, how they can be interpreted and deciphered and what mysteries we can solve by doing so.

Feb. 26: “Plasma Spectroscopy — Fingerprinting the Universe,” presented by Don Correll, LLNL physicist, and Dan Burns, Los Gatos High School teacher. Learn about spectroscopic measurement of light, the latest

research findings of fusion energy experiments and how to construct your own spectroscope.

March 5: “From the Big Bang to California: Observations of the Universe,” presented by Wil van Breugel, LLNL astrophysicist, and Tom Schfler, Granada High School teacher. Learn about some of the most recent discoveries in astronomy. Find out what is done at LLNL to help understand how super-massive black holes play an important role in the formation of galaxies.

ABLE

Association of Black Laboratory Employees

Black History Month celebration continues

Black History Month videos

In celebration of Black History Month, the Worklife Programs office is presenting videos throughout the month. They begin at noon in the Bldg. 361 auditorium. For more information, contact Lisa Rashidi, 3-7473.

Tuesday, Feb. 15: “John Henrik Clarke: A Great and Mighty Walk, Part I.” This documentary chronicles Clarke’s life via an interview with the 80-year-old professor emeritus of Hunter College in New York, as he recounts highlights of black history.

Wednesday, Feb. 16. Special presentation: Noon, Bldg. 671, room 2301, “Personal Encounters With the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.” by Barry Schrader, Archives and Records. Schrader will share the recording of the 1968 event when King came to the valley to meet with Joan Baez and Ira Sandperl, who were incarcerated in Santa Rita Jail. He first heard King speak at a Southern Christian Leadership rally at Soldiers Field in Chicago while in college.

Thursday, Feb. 17. “John Henrik Clarke: A Great and Mighty Walk - Part II.”

Join your co-workers in fighting cancer



Purchase a bunch of freshly cut daffodils (10 stems) for \$10. A vase is available for an additional \$8.

The deadline for an LLNL order is Tuesday, March 1. Delivery will be on Tuesday, March 22.

Money from this American Cancer Society-sponsored event will go to research, education and patient services.

Check the list below for the LLNL Daffodil Days volunteer nearest you who is accepting orders.

Name	Bldg.	Rm.	L-code	Phone	Name	Bldg.	Rm.	L-code	Phone	
Barnes, Tracey	111	501R	L-001	3-9060	Nelson-Lee, Jennifer	5426	1009	L-621	2-5750	
Bell, Christine	543	2075	L-640	3-9447	Olund, Cindy	131	2075	L153	2-3668	
Berkich, Tracy	071	1020	L-102	2-8246	Owens, Cinda	191	2235	L-282	2-3392	
Bireley, Kathy	543	Lobby	L-638	2-8431	Pope, Kathy	551W	2203	L-660	3-1015	
Bradbury, Diana	132N	2817	L-090	2-1746	Quick, Bonnie	451	1041	L-561	2-6510	
Breznik, Joanne	551W	2387	L-662	4-4104	Ray, Karyn	6526	1010	L-797	3-3106	
Conrad, Janet	453	2155	L-073	2-7561	Raziano, Donna	1878	110	L-278	2-8517	
Continente, Jenifer	113	5008	L-066	2-6644	Rutan, Dena	253	1536	L-384	3-0696	
Delage, Lori	511	100E	L-601	4-2601	Sarlund, Nancy	140	2002	L-389	2-5072	
De Marco, Barbara	142	1310	L-210	4-2272	Schuld, Joni	Accounting Representative				2-4168
Emmrich, Shirley	551E	1090A	L-654	2-6206	Sefcik, Cookie	121	1013	L-051	3-2242	
Fread, Lanette	411	1422	L-518	2-9288	Shuler, Jean	113	1030	L-067	3-1909	
Giannini, Julie	253	1505A	L-382	2-5129	Sorensen, Nanette	2925	101	L-397	2-9670	
Grandfield, Charlene	5475	1359	L-633	3-1779	Springer, Frankie	111	332	L-016	3-6192	
Greenfield, Jodi	170	1079	L-103	4-6460	Sprott, Kirsten	Co-Chairman, Daffodil Days				4-4822
Harrison, Jaquie	481	2055	L-488	2-2823	Thompson, Michelle	871	124	L-871	3-1180	
Horner, Nadine	Co-Chairman, Daffodil Days			3-9051	Thompson, Starlyne	671	1314	L-650	2-7414	
Jackson, Sandy	361	1579	L-441	2-9308	Twiss, Carol	571	1138	L-725	2-9395	
Lindsay, Karen	321A	2100	L-337	3-5028	Watt, Maggie	335	1130	L-361	4-6247	
Mahler, Florann	111	403	L-019	2-9173	Weyburn, Sandy	551E	221E	L-657	2-0840	
Miller, Margie	314	1216	L-432	3-0265	Williams, Anita	132N	2254	L-170	2-4550	
Moy, Jenny	663	1201	L-723	2-0778	Yazzie, Darlene	132S	2322	L-182	3-7846	
Navarra, Monica	1401	1011	L-200	2-0207	Ybarra, Corinne	482	2158	L466	3-9501	



CLASSIFIED ADS

See complete classified ad listings at
<https://www-ais.llnl.gov/newsline/ads/>

AUTOMOBILES

2000 - Toyota Echo 4 door, manuel transmission. Great condition, only 44,000 miles. \$7000 209-835-9295

1997 - Thunderdird perfect condi-tion,27k miles extra warranty,very clean, garaged, all service records. Call for more info. 510-582-2938

1979 - XJ-S Jaguars (2). Engine/trans removed. Set up for Chevy V8. TOTAL rebuilt running gear and upgrades + parts car. Call for details. \$3K/package 925-455-0577

1993 - Honda del Sol Si, 127,000 miles, 5-speed manual transmission, bright green w/ black interior, Targa Top, low mileage on tires and clutch, \$3,900 925-447-6719

1996 - Toyota Tacoma SR5 XtraCab 4WD, Auto., White, 85K miles, a/c, cruise control, am/fm cass., camper-shell/carpet kit, tow pkg. excellent condit. \$9,500. 209-834-0808

1998 - Mitsubishi Mirage DE, good condition & commuter, low miles,rims,new tires,&CD Player, tinted windows. \$4000.00 OBO 209-814-2832

1965 - Restored Mustang. Prairie Bronze color. \$25k o.b.o. I can email pics to you. Located in Stockton. Must see! 209-957-7117

1994 - Honda Civic EX. Well taken care off. 6 disc CD Changer, Spoiler, Sun Roof, Original Owner. Asking \$4500.00. 925-980-5862

1997 - Chevy Tahoe LT 4x4 Fully Loaded Orig Owner Great Condition Must See \$9,100 925-449-3970

1996 - Chevy S10 pickup truck. 4 cylinder, 5 speed, 118,000 miles, runs but needs engine work. \$1200 obo. 925-625-7914

2001 - VW Jetta 1.8Turbo Wolfsberg Edition, 62,500mi,5 speed,pwr everithing,6CD,premium wheels,tinted windows,sunroof,cer-tified pre-owned \$12,500 obo 209-834-0642

1995 - Ford Taurus wagon w/third seat. Approx. 160,000 miles. \$1,500.00 209-823-8089

AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORIES

TIRES/RIMES: 265/70R16, Firestone Wilderness LE w/Chrome Rimes, off GMC Yukon, tires used aprpx. 15K miles, excellent condition, \$250/BO 209-599-1955

Dart Pro 1 heads (bare) for BBC \$1595.00 also Dart dominator man-ifold for same \$325.00 Both new in box 209-815-0335

BICYCLES

Mongoose XR200 21 speed moun-tain bike with front disk brake and front and rear shocks, \$200. 925-377-6537

Mtn bike, Diamond Back, 27 inch. In very good condition. Would make great lab bike. \$40. 925-294-8182

Boys bicycles, one 16 inch red bicy-cle and one 12 inch Trek bicycle w/ training wheels. \$10 each or B.O. 925-454-0877

Brand New Free Agent Pro Aluminium BMX 24in. Cruiser Must See! was 749.99 sell> \$325.00 o.b.o. 925-355-9144

Kids 20 inch bike. BMX style with green cami paint pattern. Excellent condition. \$20. x29114. 925-600-0297

New,Rocky Mountain Free-ride RM-6 Mountain Bike 18.5in. frame Marazochi Front Fork 6in., Fox rear shock 6in. Must Sell! \$1200.00 o.b.o. 925-355-9144

BOATS

1974 Kona jet boat18 ft, 455 olds, runs great, \$3200 510-278-9736

2002 Bayliner, low hrs like new, 18ft, CD/MP3 player, ext warranty, fishfinder, Garaged, immaculate! Avg. retail \$13k, asking \$11,500. 925-513-3215

CAMERAS

Canon EOS 750 QD 35mm w/35-80mm EF power zoom, \$100; Canon EOS Rebel Sii 35mm w/28-80mm AF, \$125. 925-757-6896

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Arcade games, MsPacman, Klax, Sticker Machine. In Livemore. \$300 all 925-294-8182

HP Deskjet color printer with cables \$45.00.Used twice. Sony monitor with speakers and keyboard 30.00. 510-537-7222

17 inch Hewlitt Packard Computer Monitor for sale. \$75.00, or best offer. 925-425-3373

HP 49 g+ graphing calculator with usb cable. 1 year old. Cost \$150 new, asking \$80. Like new condi-tion. 925-479-0787

GIVEAWAY

Epson Stylus 800 printer, free! Works well, needs ink cartridge. 925-456-6023

Lawnmower, Snapper Hi vac, not working, needs engine work. 925-447-7255

Dirt, from old Garden Boxes, approx 2 cu yd, some or all, you dig and haul. 925-447-3307

Large truck tire innertube. Great for tubing in the snow. 925-443-1279

HOUSEHOLD

Kenmore Washing Machine, 5 years old, 3 speed, super capacity plus, needs new lid assembly. \$50 925-456-6023

4 Breuner chairs with arm rest, like new \$50 for set of 4. 415-543-3643

Futon, queen size, pine frame, very good mattress. In Livemore. \$50 or best offer. 925-294-8182

Cool mist vaporizer, \$5. Ultrasonic humidifier, new, \$30. 925-454-0877

Curio cabinet, oak with glass door, sides, 5 shelves, & interior light. Excellent condition. \$95.00 925-455-5985

Bunk Bed: White metal tube frame. Like new. Twin mattress top, full size futon on bottom. \$50 OBO. 925-443-6248

Hoover Dirt Finder with allergen fil-ter. Have too many vacuums. Works good. 25.00 510-537-7222

Oak dining room table with 4 chairs and an extension. Good condition. \$150.00. 925-455-4900

Youth twin bedset includes desk, chester drawers as part of set plus extra dresser. Heavy wood, in good condition/beige. Asking \$200 for set. 209-836-1663

New Shermag Glider&Ottoman sky blue cushions with pine wood frame,Half-Price \$150.00 o.b.o. 925-355-9144

Oak kit table, solid, 40x58 w/2 leaves or 40 round no-leaves \$80; 4ea solid Alder wood chairs \$50; will sell separately 209-814-4064

kitchenaid-white compactor-ther-mal-concection oven microwave combo supera 27 self clean-ther-mador gas cook top-diswasher \$600.00obo 925-784-2031

Refrigerator, Whirlpool corp., Model ED@PKXSN10,20Cu.ft. side by side, type COSSA90 245 lbs.

\$200.00, excellent condition. 925-443-1097

Dresser, 9-drawer, french provincial style, cream w/gold trim \$100; DAYBED, cream w/brass, includes trundle and mattresses \$250 209-599-1955

Television. 19 inch. Sharp. 1987. Cable input. Works fine. Includes remote. \$19. 925-253-1467

Rustic Furniture for sale. Armoire, Storage Chests(coffee table) Bookshelf Asking \$450.00 for all three pieces. 209-824-0168

Pop up Trundle frame and mattress from a day bed. Make an offer! Kenmore Chest Freezer, \$100 OBO, 14 cubic feet, Runs great 925-838-4150

Queen Size soft-sided, 8 tube wave-less waterbed incl. box spring and chemicals. Can sit on a frame or platform. Was used as a guest bed. \$75.00. 209-814-4165

Remodeling sale: mahogany desk in exc. cond. and marble side table in exc. cond. and other misc. furni-ture. Please make offer. 925-980-1895

Cal King honey toned solid pine waterbed w/ lighted hutch/under-bed storage & 7 drawer dresser w/ lighted hutch. No mattress. E-pics avail. \$500 OBO 209-872-4143

Queen size waterbed with head-board. \$40 209-835-4225

Matching double bed w/head-board,night stand,3-drawer dresser w/mirror,desk w/bookshelf,chair, mattress & boxspring \$550. 209-823-8089

Oak roll top desk and chair, good condition. Four white floor speaker stands. Best offer. 209-521-9047

Multiple Family Garage Sale!! Saturday, February 12th 8:00-5:00. Tools/ Furniture/Computer/ Printer/Toys/Clothes,Etc.-196 Barber St. Livemore 925-518-5660

LOST & FOUND

Lost mens black leather jacket about 1 yr ago (yes, 1 year); brand Marc of NY 925-373-6751

LOST - Black canvas bag w/ excer-cise clothes. Left in Orange Bike at West Gate Jan-27 PM. ext 2-9573 or 415-310-1688

MISCELLANEOUS

Preschool/kindergarten toys, games, puzzles, videos, software. \$1-\$5. Boys clothes sz. 4/5. Great condi-tion, low prices. 925-454-0877

Get low off season painting prices now before the weather gets too hot. Interior and exterior, satisfac-tion guaranteed. 25 years plus expe-rience. 510-537-7222

New Snow Cone/Slushy machine by Rival, Half Price \$10.00 o.b.o. 925-355-9144

Want to Fly? No License required. Buckeye Powered Parachute \$5500.00 with trailer. 925-516-7849

Delta 10in. table saw with stand. Job Site Model like new \$100.. 925-447-6682

National Geographic Magazines 1930s to mid 1980s. Very good con-dition. Approx. 80 issues. \$20 or best offer. 510-791-8623

Rototiller TroyBilt 5hp 15 inch. Installed brand new engine to sell, but shear pin for tines broke. Yours for \$350 cost of the new engine. 925-829-7469

MOTORCYCLES

2000 - LePera Monterey Seat for Harley Touring Bikes. It came off my 99 Roadking. Great Shape, has gel in rider portion only. \$225 925-455-8006

2004 - Brand New Mini pocket Rocket bike 49cc 2-stroke custom paint + extras nice!! \$350.00 o.b.o. 925-548-3849

1986 - Yamaha TT 350. Runs strong. \$1100.00 Bill Garry2 209-835-1829

1988 - Honda TRX250R Quad. Rebuilt motor, in good condition. Also Have paddles for rear call for more info. \$3,500.00 o.b.o 209-835-2100

1997 - Harley Davidson Softail Custom, exc. condition, lots of \$\$ in extras, 18K miles, pythhon exhaust \$13,200 incl. bags. Cell 510/774-6100 925-634-7336

MUSIC INSTRUMENTS

Piano - Kimball upright, very nice \$750 209-599-4793

PIANO w/ matching bench, Kohler & Campbell 40 inch upright. Medium dark satin wood finish. Good tone, very good condition. \$900 925-443-4672

PETS & SUPPLIES

Free, Netherland Dwarf Bunny needs loving home. Moving, pets not allowed. Cage, gate, limited supplies included. Great for chil-dren. Must pickup. 925-875-0833

Puppies, 6 boys/3 girls, mom German Shorthair, dad unknown, pups are B&W tuxedo patterned. Available early March. Free to good homes. 925-447-4830

RECREATION EQUIPMENT

1991 Carabue P/U Camper by Fleetwood 10 1/2 feet self con-tained, Ref/frez, heater, air, queen bed sleeps 5 very good condition \$4,700 B/O 925-449-4262

3 Wheeled Jogging Stroller Baby Trend Expedition (Folding) Hardly Used \$75.00 510-796-3142

New Kettler Adjustable trike for Kids includes pedal blocks, Half-Price \$35.00 o.b.o. 925-355-9144

Health Rider RC270 recumbent exercise bike in excellent condition. Paid \$500 asking \$200 925-455-8933

Half Off! Treadmill, never been used, still in the box. Padded deck, folds flat for storage. All the bells & whistles. \$150 925-245-1657

Air hockey table, 6ftX3ft, Harvard brand. Originally \$400, asking \$100 OBO. 209-835-6062

RIDESHARING

Express your commute, call 2-RIDE for more information or visit <http://www-r.llnl.gov/ tsmf>.

Lafayette - LaMOrinda Vanpool (also WALNUT CREEK stop at Rudgear Rd): reclining seats, reading lights, 7:45-4:45, \$105/mo (pretax reduc-tion available) 925-943-6701, ext. 3-3005

Modesto - Space available in 14 pass. van, 8AM - 4:30 PM work schedule. \$124/mo. 209-521-9047, ext. 2-5177

Discovery Bay - 3 person carpool looking for rider/driver. Arrive 7:30-7:45 leave 4:30-4:45. 925-516-1243, ext. 2-7279

Berkeley - Looking for rideshare M,T Th,F Start time: btwn 7:30 - 8:30 Leave LLNL: btwn 4:45 - 5:45 Vanpool or carpool 510-717-2891, ext. 3-6608

Valley Springs - Seat available in car pool. Take turns driving. Leaves Valley Springs at 4:55. Work hours AWS 7:00-4:30 209-772-0151, ext. 3-7709

Martinez - Car pool looking for a 4th member. Leaving Martinez/PH area between 6:30-7:45. Leaving lab after 4:30 925-200-1370, 3-7857

SERVICES

Lisa's Day care 1374 Yorkshire Loop in Tracy. Fun loving home, and bilingual any questions please call 209-830-6669.

Hauling Service. Estate cleanouts, Attics, Garage, Shed and Barns. Misc... 925-373-9540

Have a need for custom wrought iron? I specialize in fencing, securi-ty, gates, handrails, & ornamental iron work. Call for a free estimate. 209-505-0517

TUTORING in high school and col-lege math and chemistry. 925-443-2095

SHARED HOUSING

Livermore - furnished room for rent. Clean/quiet/pool. Close to bus/bike path. No pets/no smoking. \$550.00/month. Share utilities. Deposit. Mature adult. 925-449-1128

TRUCKS & TRAILERS

1996 - Chev 3/4 ton HD truck extended cab long bed,silverodo 350 ,auto PS,PB PW,air. 88k miles Very Clean and well maintained. \$7,500 B/O 925-449-4262

1999 - Ford Ranger XLT extra cab w/camper shell. V6, AT, AC, rear ABS, power everything, keyless remote, am/fm cassette, 88k miles. Harvest Gold. \$6950. 925-846-3653

1984 - Ford F-250, long bed, reg cab, good condition, runs good, 68k orig miles, 4 speed, air. \$1600.00 OBO. 209-946-0645

2002 - Dutchmen Toy Hauler SRV35H Victory lane model. 35 ft. 2 slides only used 3 times. excellent condition. Fully self contained. \$33,500.00 o.b.o 209-835-2100

97 - GMC Sierra Z71, 1/2 ton, 9 inch lift, fully loaded. 87k miles \$11,000 or best offer. 925-292-1719

2003 - GMC Sonoma v6 auto 2whl dr Color pewter ac cd cruise tilt wheel power everything hard ton-neau cover, bedmat prem wheels Exc cond 37Kmls. \$15K/obo 541-783-2156

VACATION RENTALS

Soooo cute beach cottage in Santa Cruz near boat harbor. 2 bedr, 2 bath. Sun-Thurs special thru March. \$ 75.00/night. 925-245-1114

HAWAII - -- OAHU Looking for rental Feb 17-20 for two adults. View preferred. 925-580-9694

Maui, HI - Kahana Reef ocean-front 1BR/1BA condominium. Beautiful two-island view, ocean-side pool, and BBQs. LLNL rates for year-round reservations. 925-449-0761

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE - 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Chalet, comfort-ably furnished, all amenities,close to all skiing,RESERVE NOW FOR SKIING/WINTER FUN!! 209-599-4644

Soda Springs/Donner Summit, Classic A frame, 2BR/1BA+Loft, sleeps 8,Walk to Royal Gorge 5 min to Sugar Bowl \$250 wknd,\$550/week call for avail-ability 209-836-3481

WANTED

Electric washer and dryer, queen-size metal bed frame, small wooden kitchen/dinette table (approx. 3 ft by 3 ft.) Delivery preferred. 209-603-5840

Woodburning stove, stand-alone (not an insert), heating efficiency more important than appearance. 925-449-1550

Biosciences postdoc program helps young scientists flourish

By Charles Osolin

NEWSLINE STAFF WRITER

Call it a case of taking a good thing and making it better.

Last year, a survey by *The Scientist* magazine identified LLNL as one of the 10 best workplaces in the United States for postdoctoral researchers, or postdocs.

Not content to rest on their laurels, the managers at the Laboratory's Biosciences Directorate (BIO) have decided to make working at Livermore an even more satisfying and career-enhancing experience for the directorate's two dozen postdocs.

"Postdocs have the energy and the enthusiasm and the new ideas," said BIO's Kris Kulp, a member of the LLNL Postdoctoral Advisory Council. "We need to make sure they have a good work environment, so they can really flourish and help spread that energy and enthusiasm throughout our programs."

Al Ramponi, BIO's principal deputy associate director, established a Postdoc Program Committee late last year led by Colleen Elso and Alice Yamada, both of BIO's Genome Biology Division. The new postdoc program, featuring a wide range of communication, orientation, networking and professional development activities, was formally launched in early January and held its first quarterly luncheon Jan. 21 at Wente Vineyards.

Postdoc Celia Zhang of the Defense Biology Division called the luncheon "a very good start" for the new program.



ALICE YAMADA

Elbert Branscomb, associate director for the Biosciences Directorate, talks with postdocs.

"In my experience, postdocs in the Lab are often not taken seriously," said Zhang. "The beginning of the program here (in BIO) really gives some hope to postdocs that we are taken seriously, that we do have lot of potential for development in the directorate."

Zhang said the most attractive aspect of the luncheon was its content, which included a talk titled, "What does it take to get a funded grant?" by BIO's Jim Felton.

"It was different from other postdoc lunches in that there was an agenda, it was more than just a social event," Zhang said. "Jim Felton talked about something postdocs were interested in — how to write a proposal to apply for external funding. That was tangible information, and when you have an agenda that's really interesting, it attracts people to go. The talk was

very informative, useful and valuable."

Besides the luncheons, the BIO postdoc program includes an extensive Website (<http://biopostdocs.llnl.gov>), a quarterly newsletter, an e-mail list-serve, orientation sessions for new postdocs, a mentoring program, and an annual summer symposium chaired by Ramponi.

Kulp said the symposium will include oral presentations and posters, and conference travel awards of up to \$3,000 will be given for best presentation and best poster.

Kulp and Elso said the support and participation of Ramponi and other BIO senior managers was a key to the success of the postdoc program.

"Having Al on the program committee has lent a lot of credibility to it," said Kulp.

"We have a good panel of mentors," added Elso. "And management people and division leaders came to the lunch and are participating in professional development, answering questions and providing financial support as well."

"I really hope (the program) continues," said Zhang. "It's of direct help for postdocs just starting in their careers — a lot of things are new, and there's lots of information the senior staff can provide. We need a place and an occasion to let the information flow to young scientists."

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

budget process and there will be a lot of give and take before a final budget is approved."

The DOE budget request presented by the Energy secretary Monday is \$23.4 billion and includes \$9.4 billion for NNSA. The overall growth of the FY 2006 NNSA budget request is 2.5 percent over last year. The DOE budget request for the Laboratory is \$1.13 billion (excluding ASC Tri-lab and Infrastructure), which is roughly consistent with the overall growth of the NNSA budget.

LLNL highlights

For Defense and Nuclear Technologies, the president's FY 2006 budget is generally consistent with FY 2005. However, funding for Readiness in Technical Base Facilities, although increased to provide funding for the transfer of newly generated waste activities from Environmental Management to Weapons Activities, falls short of Laboratory expectations. Additionally, the president's budget for FY 2006 eliminates funding for the Energetic Materials Processing Center, a line item for high-explosive fabrication at Site 300.

Funding for Directed Stockpile Work has increased, and funding has been provided in the president's budget for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator study and for the

Reliable Replacement Warhead.

The baseline plan for completing NIF and achieving ignition called for approximately \$335 million in FY 2005 and \$353 million in FY 2006. However, Congress reduced the required FY 2005 funding by nearly \$26 million, to \$310 million, and the president's FY 2006 proposed budget also reduced the planned expenditures by nearly \$16 million, to \$338 million. Thus, the NIF program needs to develop a new baseline plan that will reflect the administration's plan to restore these and other funding reductions beginning in FY 2008.

The president's budget for FY 2006 requests funding for NIF in four accounts totaling \$338 million, as follows: \$142 million for construction; \$112 million for the NIF demonstration program; \$43 million for NIF diagnostics, cryogenics and experiment support; and \$40 million for the program to achieve ignition. Achieving ignition depends on full funding of these four components.

Although the budget tables show a small decrease for the Laboratory's Defense Nuclear Non-Proliferation programs, additional allocations from headquarters are expected.

NNSA overview

The Weapons Activities are requested at \$6.6 billion, essentially level with FY 2005, and supports Stockpile Stewardship activities such as:

- Directed Stockpile Work (\$1.4 billion) supports the Department of Defense nuclear weapons requirements by

maintaining and refurbishing warheads to assure their safety, reliability and performance.

- Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities, Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization programs and Environmental Projects and Operations (\$2.1 billion) enable NNSA to move toward the robust and responsive infrastructure called for in the Nuclear Posture Review.

- The Safeguards and Security, Secure Transportation Asset and Nuclear Weapons Incident Response programs (\$1.1 billion) protect weapons complex infrastructure, weapons, materials, information and employees, and provide emergency response assets that provide first-responder teams in the event of a nuclear emergency.

- Science, Engineering, Inertial Confinement Fusion and High Yield, Advanced Simulation and Computing, and Readiness Campaigns (\$2.1 billion) develop and maintain critical capabilities needed to underpin all NNSA activities, including nuclear weapon stockpile stewardship and technologies supporting nuclear nonproliferation.

The Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation activities are requested at \$1.6 billion, a 15.1 percent increase over FY 2005. Nonproliferation and Verification R&D is increased by 21 percent to boost research in radiation detection technologies.

For more information about the proposed DOE budget, check the Web at <http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do>

TRU

Continued from page 1

before they could actually be transported to WIPP. Since new requirements regarding waste characterization had to be met, the Laboratory used real-time radiography, head space gas-chromatography and gamma spectroscopy techniques on each waste drum to meet these new criteria for approved transport and disposal. In some cases, drums needed to be opened and repackaged to meet safety and transportation requirements.

The characterization was completed by a team of WIPP and LLNL technicians at the new Decontamination and Waste Treatment Facility in Bldg. 695. In order to meet transportation requirements, drums needed to be shipped in specialized containers, called TRUPACTs. When pack-

aged, each container weighed almost 15,000 pounds, requiring a crew of trained personnel to load and transport.

Ellen Raber, the Environmental Protection Department head, said "EPD had been working for several years to try to obtain the \$4 million funding for this project, as well as to schedule the necessary characterization equipment for deployment at LLNL. We were very happy when DOE/EM approved our project plan to go forward."

The waste shipment campaign consisted of 682 drums parceled into 18 shipments, containing more than 142 cubic meters of waste. Ten of the containers originated from LBNL but were shipped to LLNL for disposition to WIPP.

The final shipment, sent Jan. 28, marks the end of an effort to remove waste that had been stored on site during the last two decades. "This is a great of example of

partnership between the Lab and DOE," said Stephanie Goodwin, the division leader in the Environmental Protection Department who spearheaded the project.

Each shipment took approximately 30 hours from departure from the Lab to arrival at WIPP and "went flawlessly," said Goodwin.

"It's great to be able to complete this project," she said. "The whole point was to get this waste off the LLNL site and out of the community, and put it where it can be stored long-term. Through our partnership with DOE's Livermore Site Office, DOE's Environmental Management and the state of California, we have made that happen."

Goodwin also credited Engineering's Materials Management organization, Plant Engineering and Hazards Control for their efforts to ensure "safe and successful completion."

Native California grasslands transformed over time

The unmistakable shifting color of the surrounding grasslands marks the seasons' movement through the year at LLNL. While the Livermore skies have been filled with lumbering, slate gray clouds that pull along damp chilly breezes, the expanse of grasslands beneath dazzles the eye with a vibrant lime green hue. Although these grasses will not grow much until spring, the swaying fields distinctly tell us that spring is coiled tightly and about to let loose. Then the golden grasslands will sway again, with rains surely gone for months to come.

Most of us are aware of the staggering loss of California wetlands and riparian areas (i.e., 91 and 89 percent, respectively). Yet most remain unaware that California has lost 99 percent of its native grasslands. One-fourth of the state was once covered with native perennial grasslands; now only small, patchy remnants remain. Despite incurring the highest percentage loss, native grasslands remain less protected than other ecosystems. While grasslands in this area seem ubiquitous (their extent is relatively preserved), the character of these grasslands has absolutely changed.

Two broad categories of California grasslands exist: coastal and valley grasslands. Valley grasslands largely occur across flat areas in the Central Valley, yet also rise over the low-lying, surrounding foothills. Native valley grasslands were dominated by perennial species, although sparse historical information leaves uncertainty about the specific plants. These native valley grasslands were lost in two ways: many were entirely obliterated for cultivation or development while others were lost through significant alterations.

No single cause resulted in this rapid, dramatic habitat loss and conversion (esp. 1850-1880s); rather, multiple factors worked in concert. Factors included non-native plant and wildlife (livestock) introductions, altered grazing pressures, cultivation, development and fire suppression. High grazing pressure diminished native perennial grasses and favored exotic annual plant species. Cultivation also altered the landscape with agricultural fields entirely replacing grasslands. This allowed Mediterranean grasses to take hold, species that are more resilient to variable weather and grazing conditions. A shift from a perennial to annual dominated grassland occurred, forever changing the character of its habitats, wildlife communities and overall ecosystem health.

Site 300 offers a rare glimpse of



what these native California grasslands may have looked like before Europeans arrived. Site 300 is a small remnant, a 477-acre history book of sorts. The dominant plant in this remnant is one-sided bluegrass (*Poa secunda*) with some purple needle-

grass (*Nassella pulchra*). A positive legacy of federal land ownership is that these usually large, relatively undeveloped expanses of land often provide an oasis for wildlife, plants, and ecosystems. At Site 300, annual controlled burns favor native perennial grass species.

Yet more than 80 percent of the habitat at Site 300 is now comprised of exotic California annual grasslands, widely rolling over 5,533 acres. Seeds are stored over the dry season in soil seed banks, remaining viable for several years. Each square meter of soil under these grasslands may store between 300 to 150,000 seeds.

Once the first fall rains exceed 15 millimeters, the seeds germinate and slowly grow over winter. In spring, the plants rapidly grow, maturing between late April and June.

Grasses are flowering plants, just like the vibrantly (exotic) yellow-petaled mustard flowers now widely blooming within these grasslands. Yet, grasses rely upon the wind for pollen transfer rather than insects. Why put energy into developing colorful, showy flower parts when these are unneeded to attract insects? Rather, grasses have anthers (pollen sacs) that dangle from slender stalks or filaments; the stigma (part of the flower that captures airborne pollen) is often large and feathery. Not overly charismatic, yet efficient.

Grasslands tend to occupy vast geographical areas; protecting them conserves open space, habitats and biodiversity. Other benefits of both native and exotic grasslands include carbon storage, high primary productivity, economic value (e.g., herbivore productivity) and aesthetic value. Native grasslands support a diversity of species that differ from the more common annual exotic grasslands. Although the pristine California valley grassland is nearly gone, the existing naturalized ("new natives") grasslands provide many of the same benefits as native grasslands, and as such are worthy of appreciation, enjoyment, and protection.



Above: Site 300 annual valley grasslands: the "new native" grassland ecosystem?



Right: Site 300 grasslands dominated by one-sided bluegrass in spring.



Purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*)



One-sided bluegrass (*Poa secunda*)

TINA CARLSEN

GARY A. MONROE

ASTDR

Continued from page 1

ing in Tracy Thursday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. in the Tracy Sports Complex Conference Room. The agency will make a short presentation and then answer public questions.

ATSDR also found, in an overall Laboratory assessment, that the Lab's environmental monitoring program "...is adequate to ensure that future releases of hazardous substances will not present a future public health hazard."

ATSDR noted further that, "...with no pathway for current contaminants, and no indication those in

uncharacterized areas are moving offsite, we see little potential for any future health impacts. And that is further assured by the continued close regulatory oversight of environmental remediation and operations by such agencies as the U.S Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Health Services and Regional Air and Water Quality Control Boards."

Raber commented: "We are pleased our nation's premier health agency, the Centers for Disease Control's ATSDR, confirms our finding of 'no public health hazard,' as well as the conclusion that none is expected in the future."

Employees interested in learning more about the assessment are encouraged to attend the public meeting in Tracy.

SCREENING

Continued from page 1

million in 2006. Through significant improvements in efficiency as well as key policy changes, the Department of Energy will open nine additional sites as well as offer a toll-free number (1-888-580-1746) to guide former workers who don't live near a regional center, or, who prefer to see their personal physician through the program.

New clinics will be established for former employees of the following facilities: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Sandia National Laboratory (Albuquerque, N.M.); Ames National Laboratory (Ames, Iowa); National Nuclear Security Administration (Kansas City Plant; Kansas City, Mo.); Mound Closure Project (Miamisburg, Ohio); Fernald Closure Project (Fernald, Ohio); Brookhaven National Lab (Upton, N.Y.); and Pinellas Project (Pinellas, Fla.).



Newline
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PO Box 808, L-797